

Objective

The children will learn that Mary's life was marked with hardships.

Catechist Notes

Luke's gospel combines two customs that Jewish law required. The first was the presentation of Jesus as the firstborn son, who had to be redeemed by paying forty shekels. This was the time of circumcision and naming. The second custom was Mary's purification, which entailed a sacrifice forty days after the birth of a son. This is the first time Jesus entered the temple. Simeon and Anna were holy Israelites who trusted in God's promise of a savior. The gist of the gospel story is that Mary learns that her Son will be a light for the Gentiles, but that both Jesus and Mary will suffer.

Materials

- PAPER: A YELLOW SHEET WITH A HAPPY FACE, A RED SHEET WITH A FROWNING FACE AND TEARS
- PENS OR PENCILS
- COPIES OF ACTIVITY SHEET 8

Activity

1 Discuss happy and sad events.

- Each day, things happen that make us happy. Each day, bad or sad things happen too. Maybe this morning you had your favorite breakfast. [Show the happy face.] But then you missed the school bus. [Show the sad face.]
- What happy things have happened to you? As you answer, hold the happy face and then pass it to the next child who answers.
- What sad things happened to you? As you answer, hold the red sheet and then pass it on.

2 Tell the story of the presentation.

- One special day was a mixture of

happiness and sadness for Mary.

- Shortly after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to the temple. They presented him to God and sacrificed two birds, according to Jewish law.
 - Simeon was a good man who looked forward to the Messiah. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die until he saw the Messiah. When Jesus was in the temple, the Holy Spirit inspired Simeon to go there. Simeon held baby Jesus. He prayed that God would let him die in peace now because he had seen salvation. Simeon called Jesus a light for the Gentiles (non-Jews) and the glory of the Jewish people.
 - Simeon told Mary that people would reject Jesus, and a sword would pierce her too, meaning that she would have sorrow.
 - Anna, an old prophet who lived in the temple, saw Jesus. She praised God and told everyone about the Messiah who had come.
- 3 Ask what made Mary happy that day. (It was confirmed that her Son was the Messiah. He came for everyone.) Ask what made Mary sad. (She and her Son would suffer.) Comment:
- You might expect that because Mary was holy and God chose her to be his mother, her life was easy. Instead, she suffered like us.

4 Distribute Activity Sheet 8. Tell the children that Simeon's words came true. Direct them to draw a smile in the circle for something happy and a frown for something sad. Check their work.

Answers: Happy events are 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15.

Prayer

Mary, Mother of sorrows, pray that I put my sorrows to good use by offering them to God for an intention.

Mother of Sorrows

Read each event in Mary's life listed here. If it is happy, draw a smiling face. If it is sad, draw a frowning face.



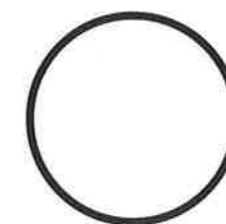
1. Mary learns that her Son is the Savior of the world.



2. Shepherds and wise men from the East honor baby Jesus.



3. Simeon foretells that people will reject Jesus.



4. The Holy Family must flee to Egypt because King Herod wants Jesus killed.



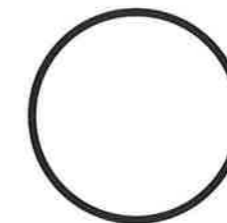
5. Mary cooks, makes clothes for, and teaches the child Jesus at home in Nazareth.



6. Jesus is lost for three days in Jerusalem.



7. Jesus learns to be a carpenter like Joseph.



8. After Jesus speaks in Nazareth, his neighbors try to throw him off a cliff.



9. Jesus works miracles to help people, especially the sick.



10. People say that Jesus is crazy and possessed by the devil.



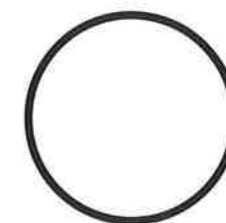
11. Religious leaders criticize and scold Jesus.



12. Jesus feeds thousands of people by multiplying bread and fish.



13. Jesus is condemned to death, and Mary meets him as he carries his cross.



14. Jesus dies on the cross and is laid in a tomb.



15. Jesus rises from the dead.